GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1664
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Indians Evacuated from War Torn Countries
Sathyabama Smt. V.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians evacuated safely from the violence hit cities of Syria, Iraq and Egypt during the last two years, city-wise;

(b) whether more Indian citizens are still trapped there or are under the custody of the rebels in these countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to safely bring them back home?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) As per the information available, no evacuation from the Iraq & Egypt took place during the last two years. 6 Indians who were in Syrian jails, for illegal entry, were helped by the Embassy and repatriated back to India (2 in the first quarter of 2015; and 4 in the first quarter of 2016). However, 7200 Indians were evacuated from Iraq in 2014.

(b) Yes. The whereabouts of 39 Indians taken hostages in Iraq during June 2014 are still not known. As per the information available, no Indian is trapped or in the custody of rebels in Syria or Egypt.

Yes. Our Embassy in Baghdad and Consulate in Erbil (Iraq) are in regular contact with the local government authorities and other sources for tracing the missing Indian nationals. The Government has also activated various channels for locating the missing Indian nationals. Local authorities have conveyed that all cooperation would be extended and instructions have been passed on to all relevant local agencies in this connection. Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited Baghdad and Erbil on 11-15 July 2017 and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Erbil in June 2017 for this purpose.